



SUBHADRA

BELOVED SISTER OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA

Vol 758





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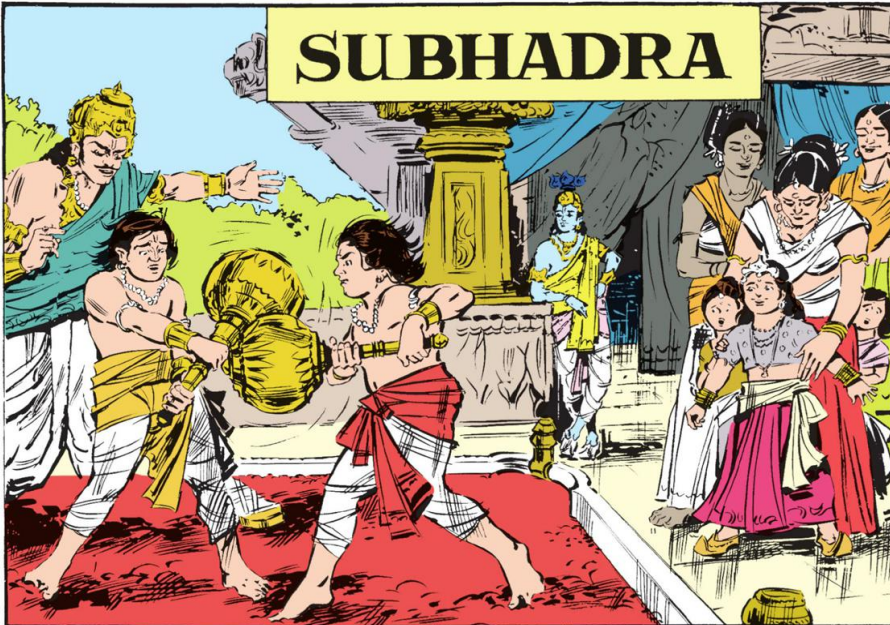
Illustrations
Mr Fernandes
& Staff Artist

Editor
Anant Pai

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SUBHADRA



SUBHADRA WAS THE BELOVED SISTER OF KRISHNA AND BALARAMA. BALARAMA, UNSURPASSED IN WIELDING THE MACE, TAUGHT MANY PRINCES THE ART.

BHEEMA, THE PANDAVA, AND HIS COUSIN DURYODHANA, THE KAURAVA WERE THE BEST PUPILS.



BHEEMA HAS STRENGTH; BUT DURYODHANA HAS THE SKILL.

OF THE TWO, DURYODHANA WAS HIS FAVOURITE.



HE CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED IN A DUEL. SUBHADRA SHALL WED HIM WHEN SHE COMES OF AGE.

WHEN THE COUSINS GREW UP, YUDHISHTHIRA, THE ELDEST PANDAVA, WAS PROCLAIMED THE HEIR APPARENT.

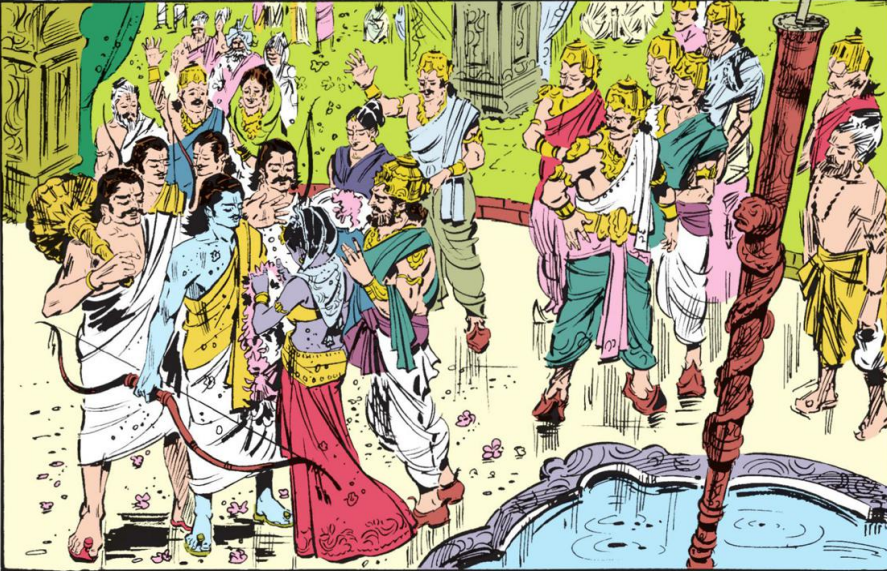


THE JEALOUS DURYODHANA TRIED TO BURN THEM ALIVE.

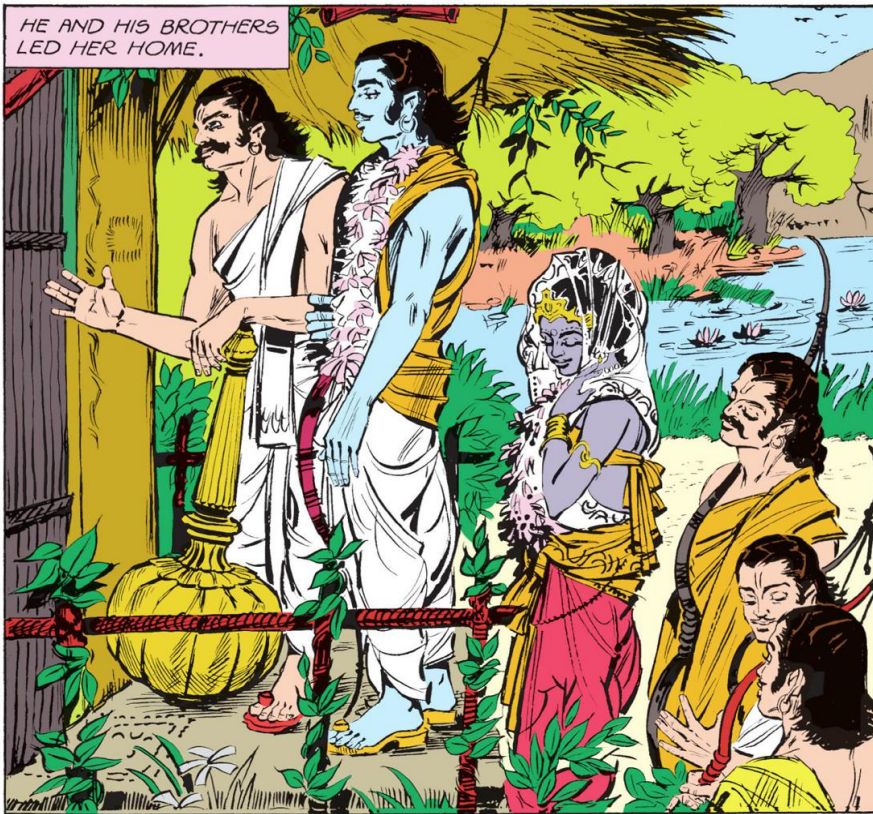


BUT THE PANDAVAS AND THEIR MOTHER KUNTI ESCAPED AND WENT INTO HIDING AS BRAHMANS.

WHILE THEY WERE IN HIDING, ARJUNA, THE PANDAVA WON DRAUPADI, THE PRINCESS OF PANCHALA IN A SWAYAMVARA.

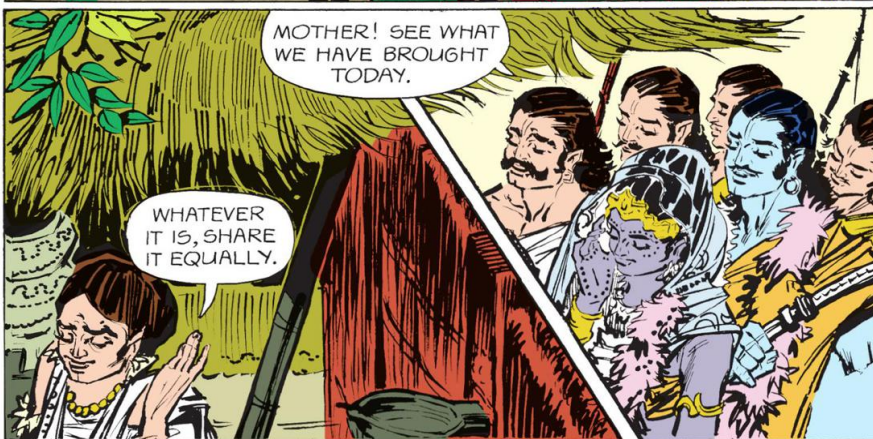


HE AND HIS BROTHERS
LED HER HOME.



MOTHER! SEE WHAT
WE HAVE BROUGHT
TODAY.

WHATEVER
IT IS, SHARE
IT EQUALLY.



SO DRAUPADI HAD TO BE WIFE TO ALL FIVE OF THEM. SOON AFTERWARDS HALF THEIR KINGDOM WAS RESTORED TO THEM AND THEY RETURNED WITH DRAUPADI AND MOTHER KUNTI, TO REIGN OVER IT.

SHE WILL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT NOT LETTING ANY ONE OF US FEEL HURT, NEGLECTED OR JEALOUS.

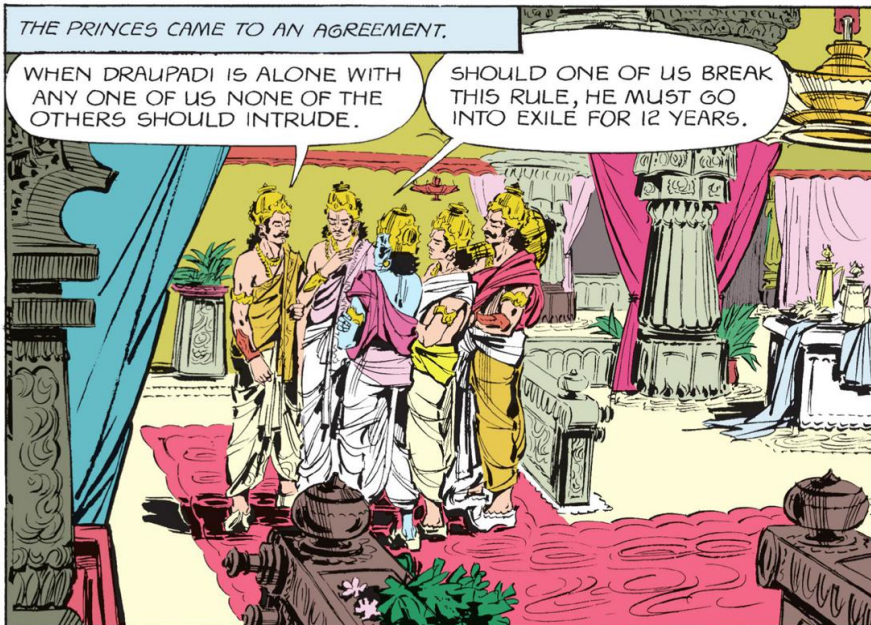
WE MUST HELP HER OUT.



THE PRINCES CAME TO AN AGREEMENT.

WHEN DRAUPADI IS ALONE WITH ANY ONE OF US NONE OF THE OTHERS SHOULD INTRUDE.

SHOULD ONE OF US BREAK THIS RULE, HE MUST GO INTO EXILE FOR 12 YEARS.



ONE DAY, DRAUPADI WAS ALONE WITH YUDHISHTHIRA.



JUST THEN A BRAHMAN CAME RUNNING TO ARJUNA.

O PANDAVA! THIEVES ARE DRIVING AWAY MY CATTLE. HELP! HELP!



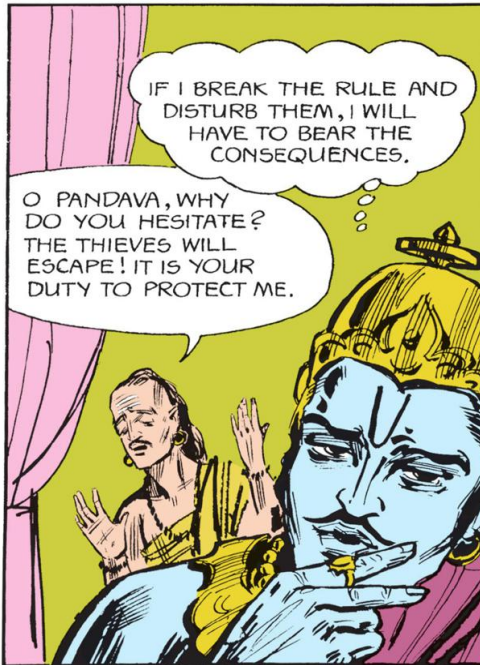
ARJUNA WAS IN A DILEMMA.

MY WEAPONS ARE IN YUDHISHTHIRA'S ROOM. AND DRAUPADI IS WITH HIM.



IF I BREAK THE RULE AND DISTURB THEM, I WILL HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES.

O PANDAVA, WHY DO YOU HESITATE? THE THIEVES WILL ESCAPE! IT IS YOUR DUTY TO PROTECT ME.





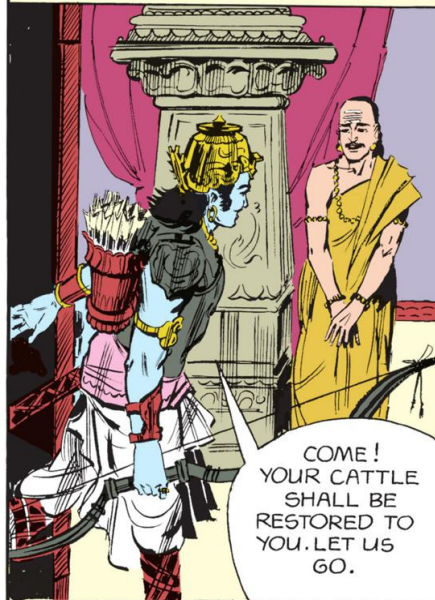
ARJUNA DECIDED TO BREAK THE RULE. HE RUSHED INTO THE ROOM...



...GRABBED THE WEAPONS...



...AND RUSHED OUT. THE BRAHMAN WAS WAITING FOR HIM.



ARJUNA RESTORED THE CATTLE TO THE BRAHMAN, AND RETURNED TO YUDHISHTHIRA.

I BROKE THE RULE.
I AM READY TO GO
AWAY FOR TWELVE
YEARS.

NO, BELOVED
BROTHER!
I FORGIVE YOU.
YOU MUST
NOT GO.



A RULE IS A RULE.
I HAVE BROKEN IT.
I WILL TAKE MY
PUNISHMENT.

AS YOU
WISH.

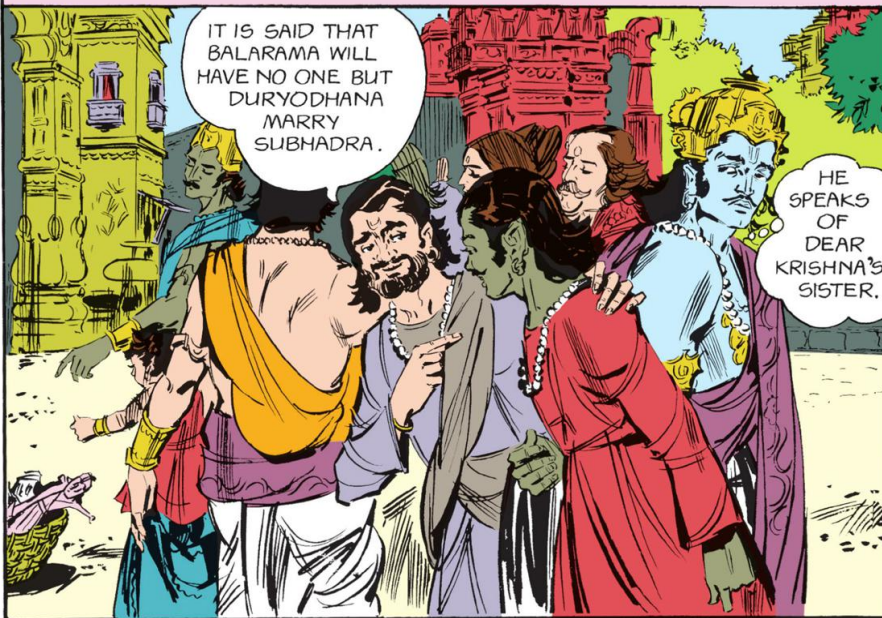


AS ARJUNA SET OUT, HE
WONDERED WHERE HE
SHOULD GO AND WHAT
HE SHOULD DO. AT LAST-

I WILL VISIT ALL
THE HOLY
PLACES ONE
BY ONE.



DURING THE COURSE OF HIS PILGRIMAGE, HE REACHED PRABHASA NEAR DWARAKA.



HE WENT UP CLOSER.

IT'S A SHAME. IT WERE BETTER IF THE ALLIANCE WERE WITH THE PANDAVAS.



AND RIGHT THERE ARJUNA
MADE A VOW TO HIMSELF.

AND SO
SHALL IT
BE. I SHALL
WIN THE
FAIR
SUBHADRA.



HE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A
SANYASI.

THIS TRIDENT
IS THE SYMBOL
OF RENUN-
CIATION.
BALARAMA
WILL NEVER
SUSPECT
WHO
I AM.



IN THIS GARB ARJUNA ENTERED DWARAKA.

THE RAINS WILL SOON
BE HERE. THAT SHALL BE
MY EXCUSE TO LINGER IN
THIS CITY FOR A
FULL SEASON
AND WIN THE
FAIR ONE.

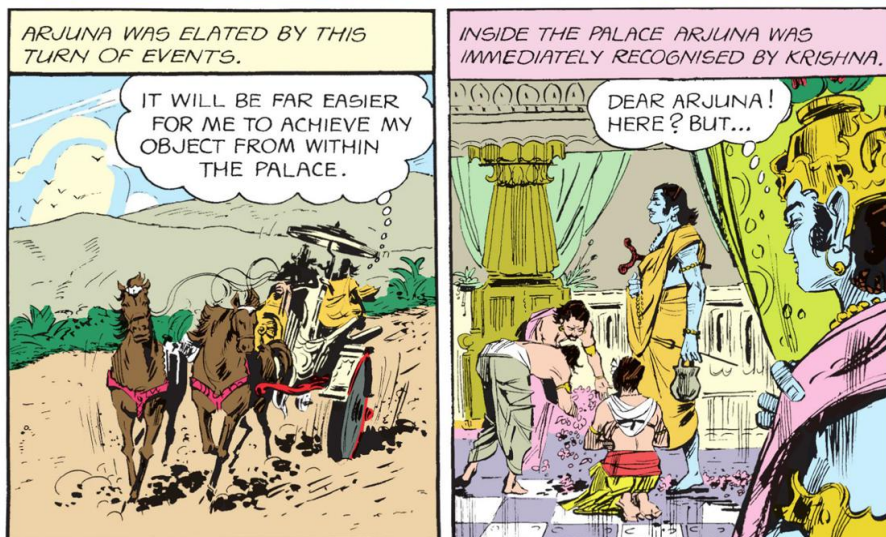


THE CITIZENS SAW THE SANYASI AND CAME TO PAY HIM THEIR RESPECTS. ONE DAY BALARAMA PASSED THAT WAY.

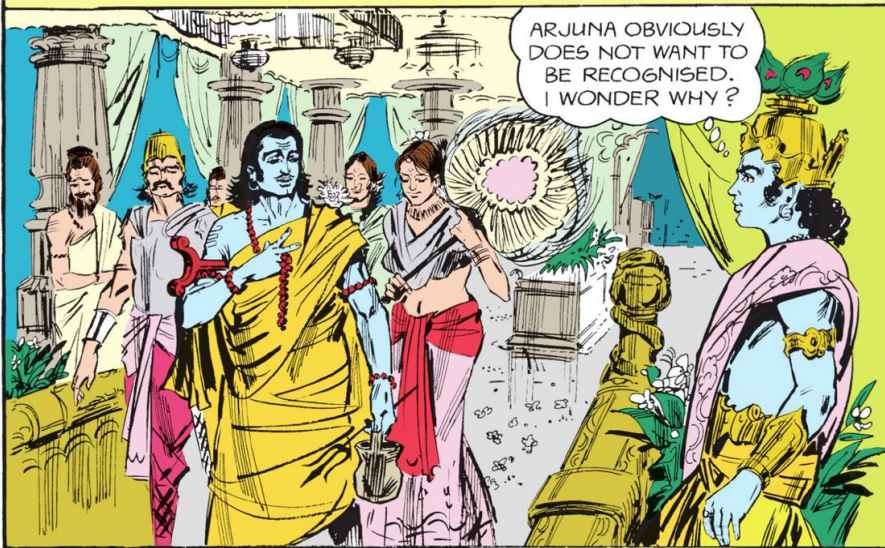


BALARAMA GOT DOWN FROM HIS CHARIOT AND WALKED UP TO THE SANYASI. THE MOMENT HE SAW ARJUNA, HE TOOK AN INSTANT LIKING TO HIM.





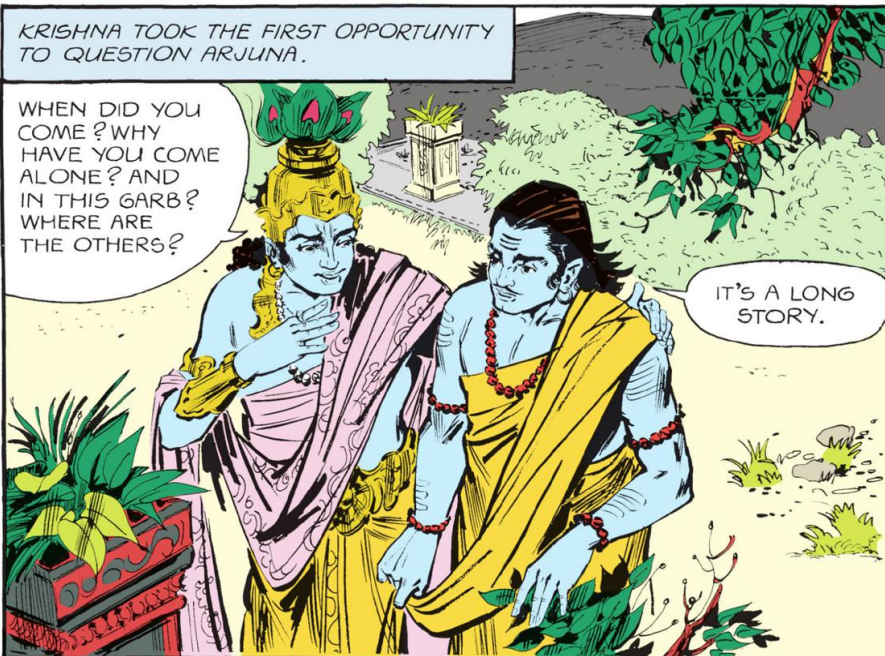
HE WAS ABOUT TO TALK TO HIM WHEN ARJUNA SILENCED HIM WITH A WINK.



ARJUNA OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT WANT TO BE RECOGNISED. I WONDER WHY?

KRISHNA TOOK THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION ARJUNA.

WHEN DID YOU COME? WHY HAVE YOU COME ALONE? AND IN THIS GARB? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

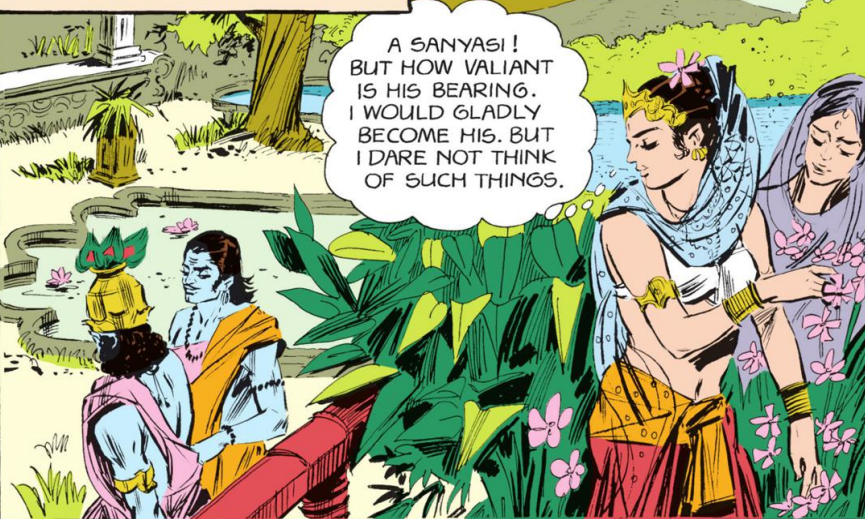


IT'S A LONG STORY.

ARJUNA TOLD HIM EVERYTHING. AS HE WAS ABOUT TO FINISH, A DAZZLING BEAUTY WITH HER BEVY OF MAIDS WALKED PAST THEM.



SUBHADRA TOO WAS ATTRACTED BY THE RECLUSE.





KRISHNA WAS DELIGHTED. HE PREFERRED ARJUNA TO DURYODHANA FOR HIS SISTER.

IF SHE IS WILLING, WHY DON'T YOU RUN AWAY WITH HER?

WOULD THAT BE PROPER?

YES. A BRAVE KSHATRIYA MAY ABDUCT A GIRL TO MARRY HER.



AS THE DAYS PASSED, ARJUNA OFTEN SAW SUBHADRA BUT HAD NO CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHAT SHE THOUGHT. THEN ONE DAY—

MY HEART BELONGS TO THE HANDSOME RECLUSE. BUT WHAT WILL I TELL MY BROTHER WHILE REFUSING DURYODHANA? THAT I HAVE LOST MY HEART TO ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED THE WORLD?

YOU ARE TRAPPED. YOU HAD BETTER ACCEPT THE KAURAVA.



THIS CONFESSION WAS ALL THAT ARJUNA NEEDED.



GOOD! NOW I MUST GET YUDHISHTHIRA'S APPROVAL.

ARJUNA THEN MET KRISHNA AND TOLD HIM WHAT HE HAD OVERHEARD.

BUT I MUST GET YUDHISHTHIRA'S CONSENT AND APPROVAL BEFORE I ACT.

THAT IS EASY. I WILL SEND A MESSENGER TO HIM STRAIGHTAWAY.

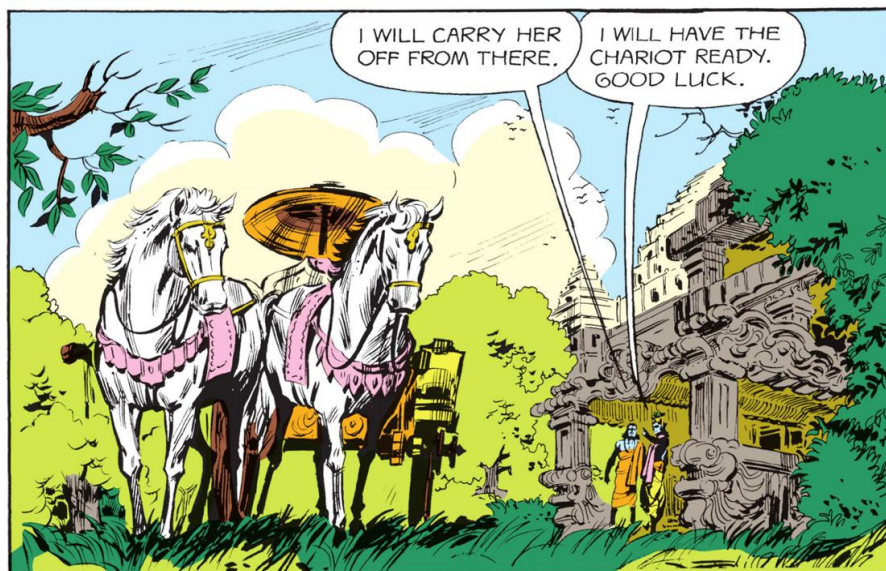
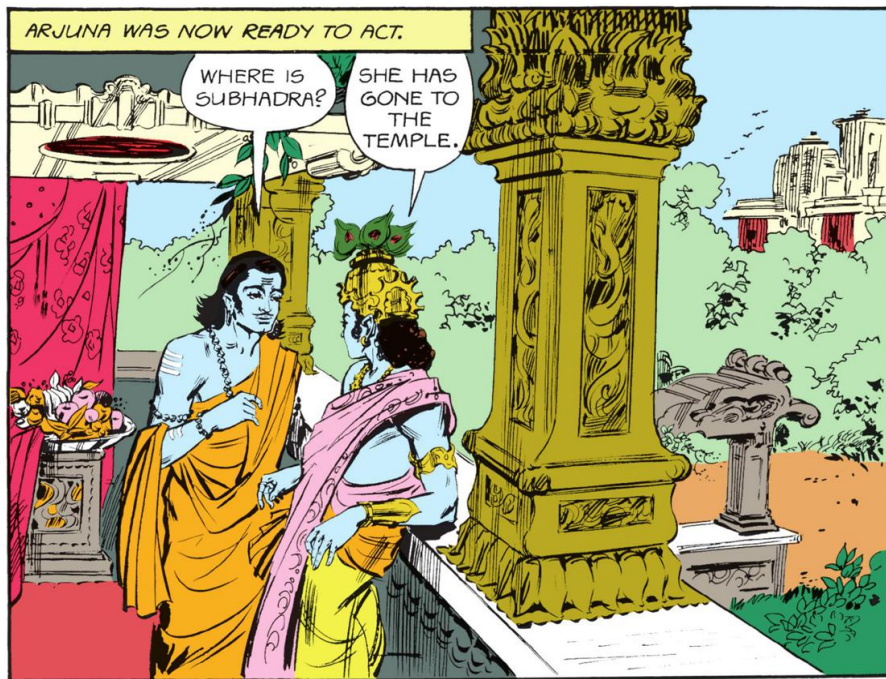


A FEW DAYS LATER THE MESSENGER RETURNED AND BROUGHT THE REPLY ARJUNA SOUGHT. KRISHNA GAVE HIM THE NEWS.

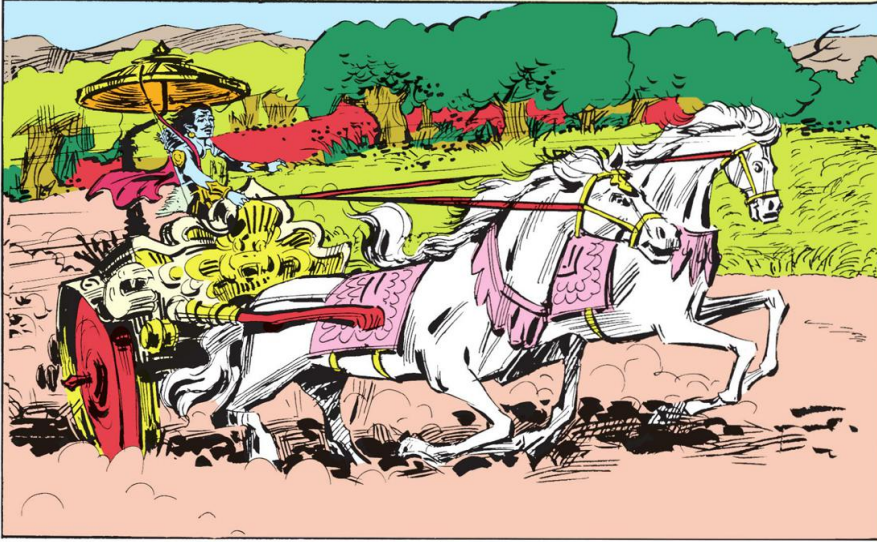


YUDHISHTHIRA HAS AGREED THAT OUR PLAN IS PROPER FOR A KSHATRIYA.

I HAD NO DOUBT THAT HE WOULD.

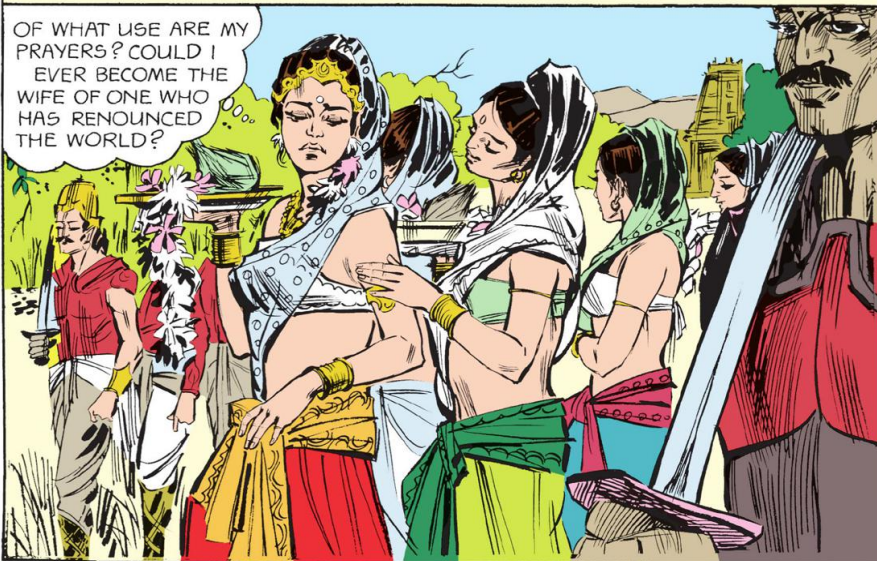


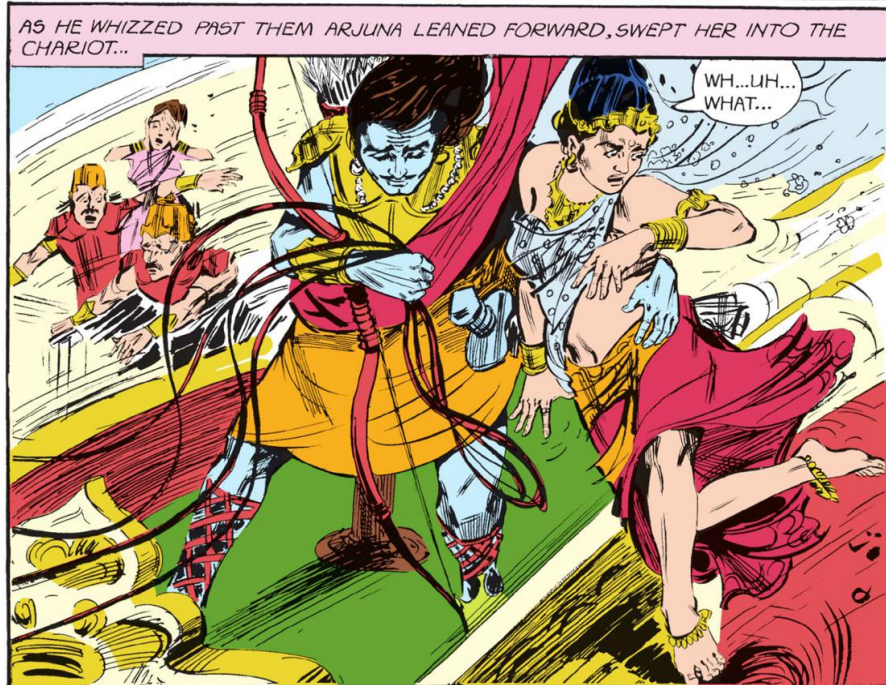
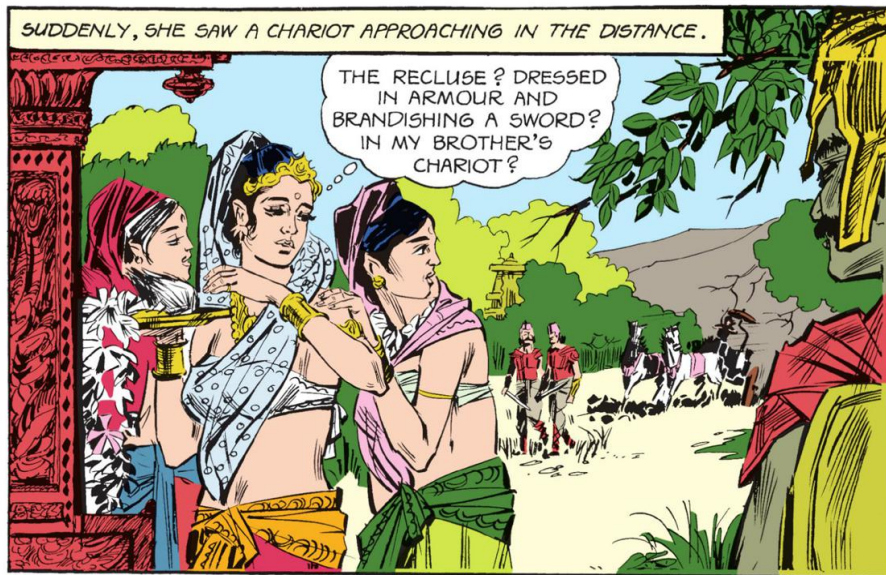
AS SOON AS THE CHARIOT WAS READY ARJUNA SET OUT TO TAKE HIS BRIDE.

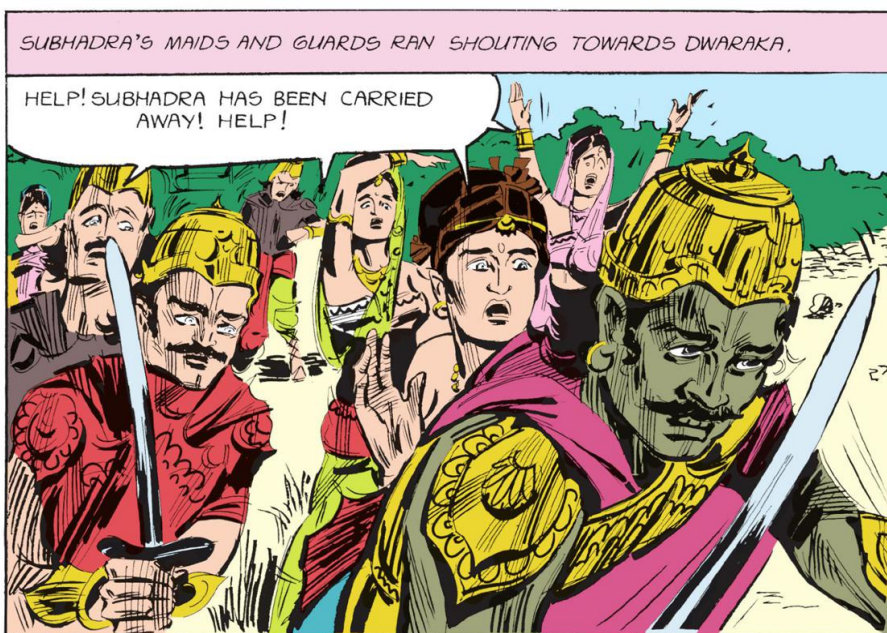
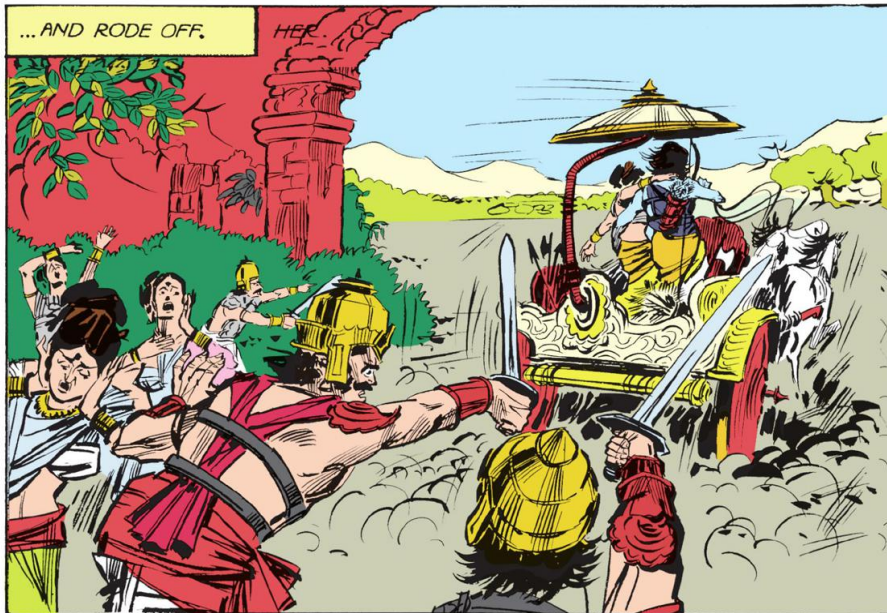


MEANWHILE SUBHADRA HAVING WORSHIPPED THE DEITIES, WAS ON HER WAY TO THE PALACE.

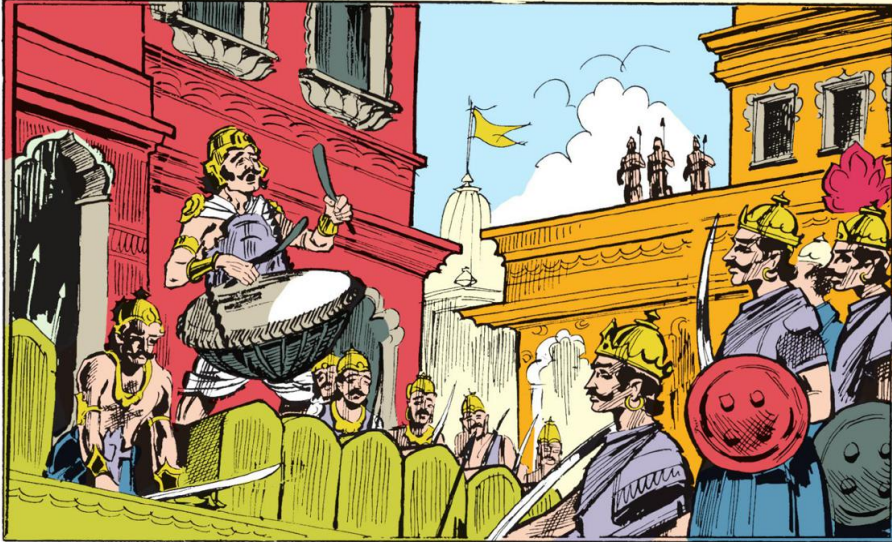
OF WHAT USE ARE MY PRAYERS? COULD I EVER BECOME THE WIFE OF ONE WHO HAS RENOUNCED THE WORLD?



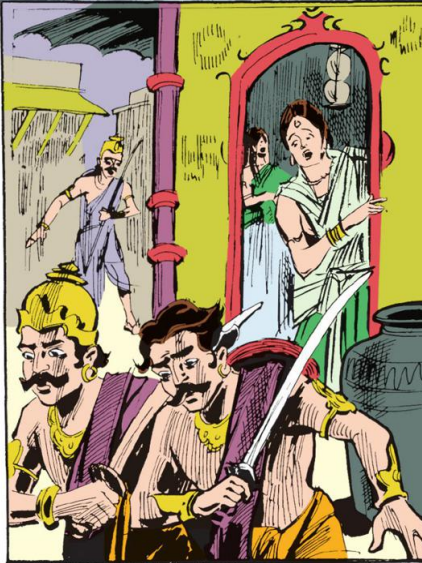




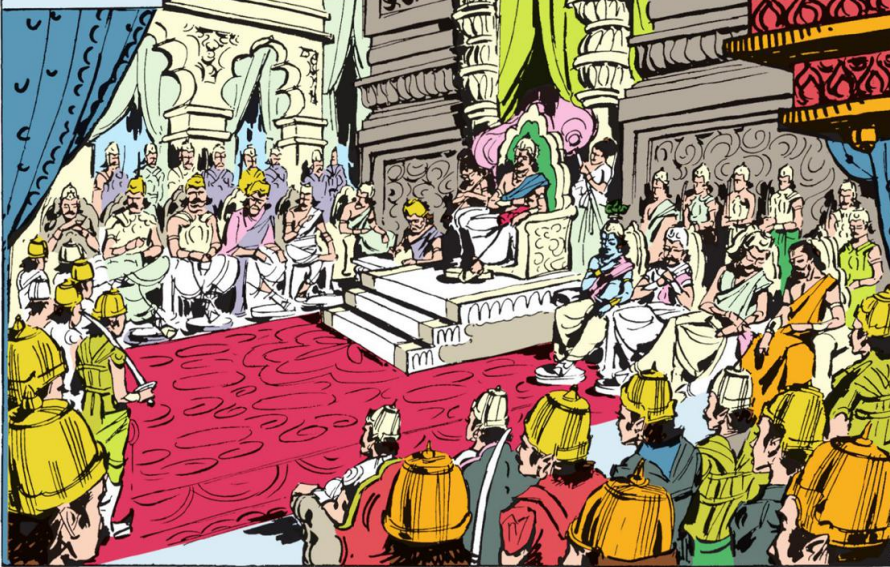
AS SOON AS THEY REACHED THE COURT AT DWARAKA, THEY RELATED THE WHOLE INCIDENT TO THE CHIEF OFFICIAL, WHO SUMMONED ALL THE CLANSMEN TO ARMS.



STIRRED BY THE CALL THE CLANSMEN LEFT WHATEVER THEY WERE DOING.



THEY POURED IN FROM ALL DIRECTIONS AND TOOK THEIR PLACES IN THE COURTROOM.



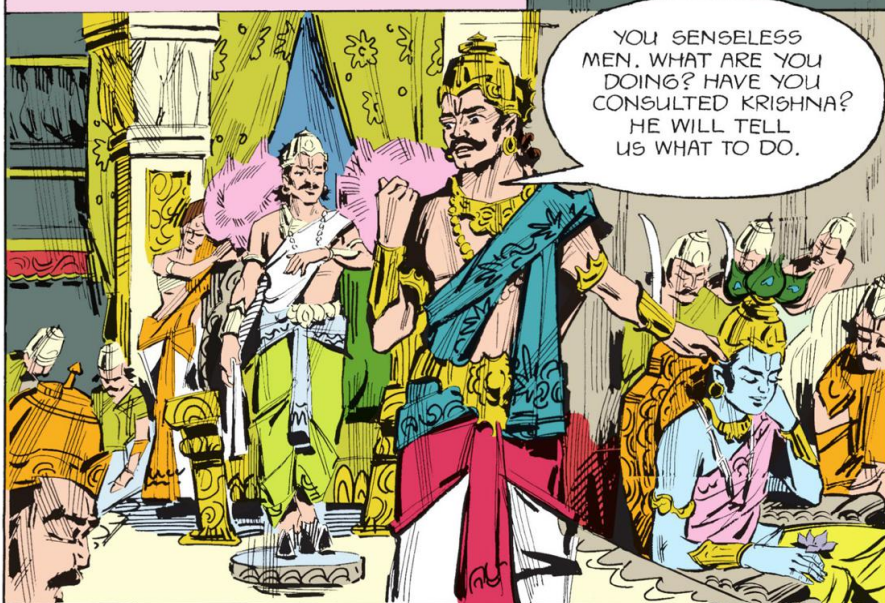
THE CHIEF OFFICIAL TOLD THEM EVERYTHING.



LOUD WAS THE UPROAR WHEN THEIR CHARIOTS, ARMOUR AND STANDARDS WERE BEING ASSEMBLED.



AT THAT MOMENT BALARAMA CAME OUT.

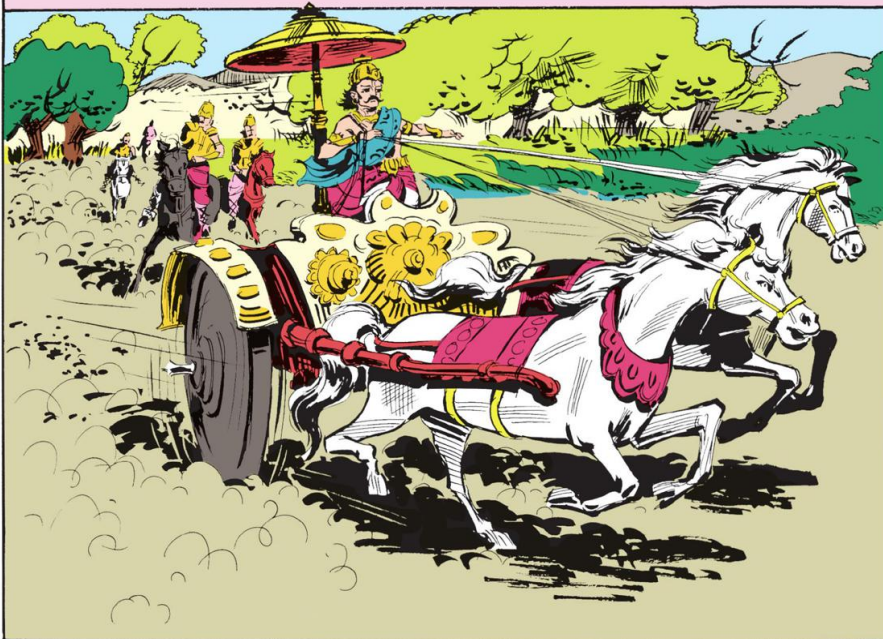








SO BALARAMA AND A FEW CLANSMEN SET OUT ON THE MISSION.



THEY SOON CAME UPON A STATIONARY CHARIOT, ARJUNA AND SUBHADRA WERE RESTING UNDER THE SHADE OF A TREE.

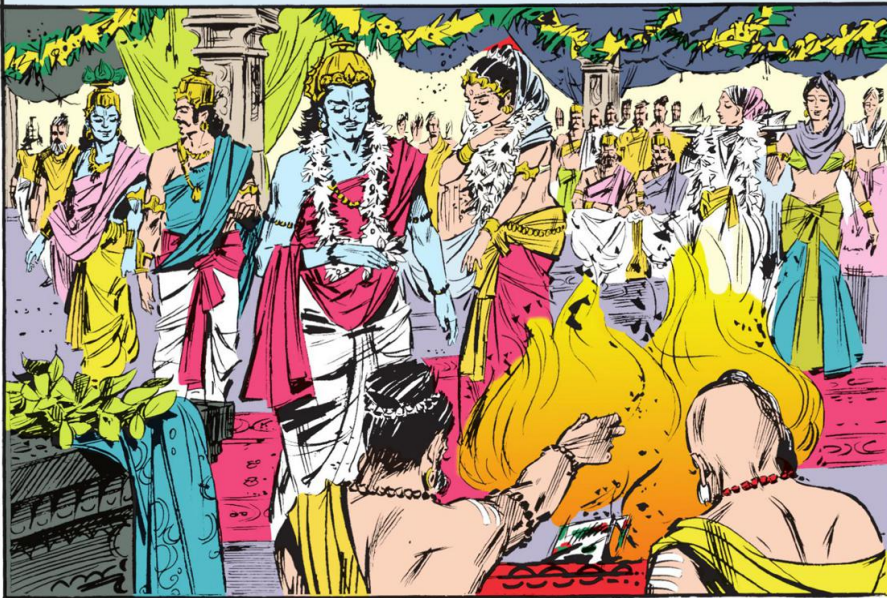


BALARAMA WALKED UP TO THEM.

WE HAVE COME TO
TAKE YOU BACK, YOU
SHALL MARRY
SUBHADRA IN
OUR CITY.



LATER, AT DWARAKA, ARJUNA MARRIED SUBHADRA.



TIME FLEW PAST AND SOON
THE PERIOD OF ARJUNA'S
EXILE WAS OVER.



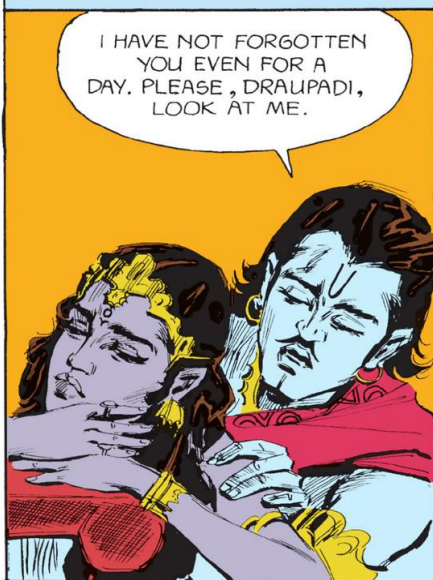
AT INDRAPRASHTA, THEY
FIRST PAID THEIR
RESPECTS TO
YUDHISHTHIRA.



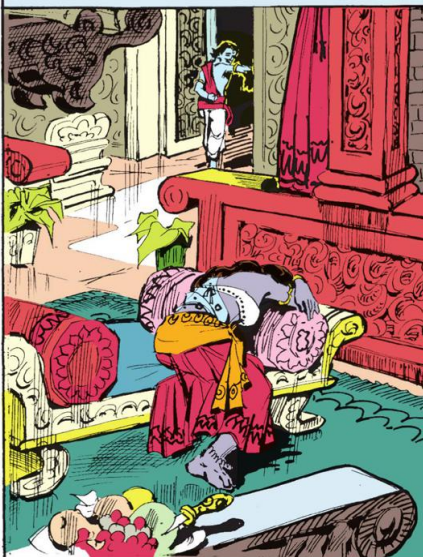
THEN LEAVING SUBHADRA IN THEIR CHAMBER, ARJUNA WENT TO DRAUPADI.



ARJUNA TRIED TO PACIFY HER.



BUT DRAUPADI WOULD NOT SOFTEN,
AND ARJUNA WENT OUT OF THE ROOM.







I SHALL WAIT OUTSIDE, YOU GO FIRST. I'LL FOLLOW LATER.



I AM YOUR MAID, ELDER SISTER. I WILL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO.

DRAUPADI WAS MOVED AND ASHAMED. SHE ROSE HASTILY FROM HER COUCH AND EMBRACED SUBHADRA.



WELCOME, MY SISTER. LET OUR HUSBAND BE EVER PROSPEROUS.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i> Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayyappa Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrahasa Dasharatha Dhruva And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Vritra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Karttikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Naia Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Prahlad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories Of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada	Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parjatala Tree The Sons Of Rama The Symantaka Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i> Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Har Gobind Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaprakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. 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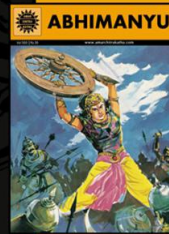
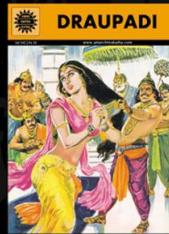
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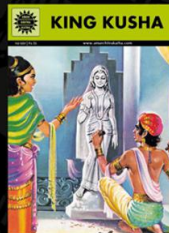
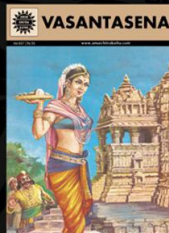
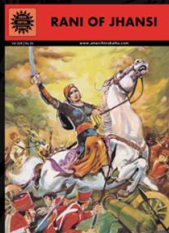
SUBHADRA

Balarama is sure that Duryodhana, the Kaurava prince, with his skill in wielding the mace will be the ideal husband for his sister, Subhadra. The princess, however, loses her heart to a handsome recluse who visits their palace. Little does she know that he is none other than the Pandava prince, Arjuna, and that he reciprocates her feelings. It is left to her other brother, Krishna, to understand the situation and solve the dilemma.

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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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